



## Nebraska Judicial Profile 2010

# Honorable John F. Irwin

### Judgeship

1992 – present

**Judge of the Nebraska Court of Appeals, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**  
*(Sarpy County)*

1998 - 2004

**Chief Judge of the Nebraska Court of Appeals**

### Experience

1990 – 1992

**Chief Deputy County Attorney, Sarpy County**

Papillion, NE

1981 – 1990

**Deputy County Attorney, Sarpy County**

Papillion, NE

1977 – 1981

**Private practice of law**

Omaha, NE

### Education

**Creighton University School of Law, 1977**  
**University of Nebraska-Omaha, 1974**

Juris Doctorate  
Bachelor of Arts

### Judicial/Law Related Activities

#### Professional Affiliations

American Bar Association  
Nebraska State Bar Association  
Nebraska State Bar Foundation

Chair, Nebraska Supreme Court Judicial Branch Education  
Committee, 2001 – present

Officer/Director/Chair, National Council of Chief Judges, 2001-  
Present

Co-Chair, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee of the  
Nebraska Supreme Court Minority Justice Committee, 2000-  
Present

Member, Nebraska State Bar Association Judiciary Committee,  
2005-Present

Member, 14th ABA Appellate Practice Institute Steering Committee,  
Chicago, IL, 2007-2009

Co-Chair, Nebraska Appellate Judges' Spring Education Meetings,  
Lincoln and Omaha, NE, Spring, 2005-2009

Secretary, American Bar Association Appellate Judge's Conference  
(AJC), 2005-2007

Chair, American Bar Association Appellate Judge's Conference  
(AJC) , Bylaws Committee, 2005–2007

Co-Chair, Appellate Court Collaboration Conference, Honorable  
Major Harding, Former Chief of the Florida Supreme Court;  
and Constitutional Issues, Professor Pamela Karlan,  
Stanford School of Law, Stanford University; Lincoln, NE,  
2006

Member, National Council of Chief Judges Education Committee,  
1999 and 2006

President, National Council of Chief Judges, 2004-2005

Chair, Nebraska Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, 2004-2006  
Vice-Chair, Nebraska Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, 2002-  
2004

Member, Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, 1998-2006

Co-Chair, Nebraska Supreme Court Technology Committee, 1999-  
2004

Ex Officio Member, Nebraska House of Delegates, 2003 to 2004

Judicial Member, Robert Spire Inns of Court, 2000-2004

Compleat Appellate Judge Education Committee, American Bar  
Association, Washington D.C., 2000-2002

Chair, National Council of Chief Judges Education Committee, 2000

Member, Nebraska Supreme Court Judicial Ethics Seminar  
Planning Committee, 1999

Chair, Appellate Practice Seminar, Nebraska Continuing Legal Education, Inc., 1999

Team Member and Presenter, Symposium on the Future of Judicial Branch Education, ABA/AJC, St. Louis, MO, 1999

Member, Nebraska Supreme Court Website Committee, 1998-2002

#### **STRATEGIC PLANNING FACILITATION**

Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Fairness Strategic Planning Session, Pittsburgh, PA, (Phase Two), June 2009

Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Fairness Strategic Planning Session, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, (Phase One), December 2008

National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts Executive Committee Strategic Planning Process, Public Policy Center Faculty Fellow, Seattle, Oregon, April 2008

NSBA House of Delegates Strategic Planning Project, Public Policy Center Faculty Fellow. Lincoln, NE, April 2008

National Council of Chief Judges Long Range Planning Committee – Chief consultant and member, Santa Barbara, CA, July 2008; Miami, FL, March 2008

Nebraska Appellate Courts' Long Range Planning Steering Committee, Chair, Lincoln, NE, 2007-2008

#### **Community Activities**

Mentor for the Nebraska State Bar Foundation and Judiciary's Law Day Job Shadowing program for 5th Graders.

Volunteer judge for the Nebraska High School Mock Trial Project through the Nebraska State Bar Foundation.

#### **Honors and Awards**

**Nebraska State Bar Foundation Fellow:** is based on the integrity and character of the lawyer/judge. Fellows are accredited by colleagues as leaders of the legal profession who contribute to charitable works and community education. Membership recognizes established legal professionals dedicated to improving the administration of justice.

## Teaching & Publishing

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Creighton University School of Law, Appellate Litigation,  
2005 – present, Omaha, NE

### PUBLICATIONS

Fostering Judicial Independence: Seeking to Improve the Retention Vote Phase of an Appointive Selection System; Hon. John F. Irwin & Daniel L. Real, *Fostering Judicial Independence: Seeking to Improve the Retention Vote Phase of an Appointive Selection System*, 34 Ford. Urb. L.J. 453 (2007)

Thoughts About Enriching Judicial Independence by Improving the Retention Vote Phase of Appointive Selection Systems; Hon. John F. Irwin & Daniel L. Real, *Thoughts About Enriching Judicial Independence by Improving the Retention Vote Phase of Appointive Selection Systems*, 43 Court Rev. 60 (2006)

Tradition Not Term Limits; Hon. John F. Irwin, *Tradition Not Term Limits*, *The Nebraska Lawyer* (August 2006)

### SPEECHES AND PRESENTATIONS

ABA 14th Annual Appellate Practice Institute. Chicago, Illinois, 2009

Nebraska State Bar Association Leadership Academy, Lincoln, Nebraska, March 13, 2009.

National Council of Chief Judges; Leading Beyond Theory, New Orleans, LA, October 2007

National Foundation for Judicial Excellence, E-Discovery and Spoliation on Appeal: The Convergence of Law and Technology, Chicago, Illinois, June 29, 2007

Robert Spire Inns of Court, Oral Advocacy, co-presentation with Judge William Riley, 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, Omaha, NE, February 13, 2007

Fordham Law School, New York City; Rethinking Judicial Selection: A Critical Appraisal of Appointive Selection for State Court Judges, April 7, 2006

Silencing the Court: Judicial Impartiality v. Free Speech, A Mock Supreme Court Argument, American Bar Association, Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI, August 3-8, 2006

Judicial Ethics, Chataqua, Iowa Bench/Bar, Okoboji, IA, June 2-3, 2006

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Board of Regents, Public Policy Center Presentation, September 10, 2004

Advanced Issues in Divorce, University of Nebraska School of Law February 27, 2004

ABA 13th Annual Appellate Practice Institute. Reno, Nevada, 2002

Nebraska State Bar Association, Annual Meeting, Annual Report on the State of the Judiciary, October 17, 2002

Co-Chair and Presenter, Nebraska Bench/Bar Conference, 2001

Leadership Tomorrow, Nebraska State Capitol, February 14, 2003

Nebraska State Bar Association, Annual Meeting, Annual Report on the State of the Judiciary, October 16, 2001

Nebraska Supreme Court Press Seminar, May 25, 2001

Leadership Tomorrow, Nebraska State Capitol, February 15, 2001

Nebraska State Bar Association, Annual Meeting, Annual Report on the State of the Judiciary, October 19, 2000

Walk Through the Courts--Lincoln, NE, Presentation to new attorneys. Sponsored by the Lincoln Bar Association, October 3, 2000

Appellate Judges Seminar, Asheville, NC; Trust and Confidence: Inside, Outside, and Between Courts, September 17-21, 2000

Iowa Bench/Bar Conference, Appellate Trust and Confidence in the Judiciary, May 18-20, 2000

Leadership Tomorrow, Nebraska State Capitol, February 16, 2000

Click [here](#) for Judge Irwin's speaker biography.